



## **The Charge of the Governors Forest Health Oversight & Arizona Forest Health Advisory Councils**

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The condition of our forests is a serious threat to public health and safety. More than 500,000 acres of urban interface lands contain hazardous fuel conditions. This makes them highly susceptible to wildfire and places many communities at risk. Continued drought has contributed to the loss of hundreds of thousands of trees due to bark beetle infestation. This has further compromised the health of our forests, as both dead and dying trees are highly flammable. In the year 2002 alone, more than 400,000 acres were lost to wildfires. Unless we adopt a more holistic approach to forest management, the threat of this kind of devastation will continue for years to come.

Recognizing this need, Governor Napolitano issued an executive in May of 2003 that established the Forest Health Oversight and Advisory Councils.

The Mission of the Forest Health Oversight Council is to develop a timeline for the implementation of the Governor's Forest Health and Safety Action Plan; to provide oversight to timely implementation of the Action Plan; to collaborate with the Forest Health Advisory Council; and to perform such other tasks as the Governor or the Advisory Council may suggest.

The Mission of the Forest Health Advisory Council is to develop guiding principles for the design and implementation of restoration-based fire fuel reduction and forest health restoration projects based on the best-available science; to monitor and evaluate results of existing restoration projects in Arizona, to identify new strategies and opportunities for demonstrating restoration-based fuel reduction and other forest health restoration techniques; to identify the resources to fund demonstration projects; and to evaluate existing and potential sustainable economic uses for small diameter trees that are compatible with long-term protection of forest health and economic development goals.